

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A storage system comprising:
 - a channel unit that transfers data sent from an upper-level system and transfers data to said upper-level system;
 - a plurality of cache units which are coupled to said channel unit and in which data sent from said channel unit is stored;
 - a control unit that is coupled to said plurality of cache units, and transfers or receives data to or from said plurality of cache units;
 - a disk device in which data sent from said control unit is stored;
 - one or more first path coupling said channel unit to a first cache unit of said plurality of cache units;
 - one or more second path coupling said channel unit to a second cache unit of said plurality of cache units and not being in common with said first path;
 - one or more third path coupling said control unit to said first cache unit; and
 - one or more fourth path coupling said control unit to said second cache unit and not being in common with said third path.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to Claim 2 1, wherein said first path and said second path are independent of each other.

4. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to Claim 2 1, wherein said first path is dedicated to communication between said first cache unit and said control unit.

5. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 4, wherein said second path is dedicated to communication between said second cache unit and said control unit.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to Claim 2 1, wherein said first path directly links said first cache unit to said control unit.

8. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 7, wherein said second path directly links said second cache unit to said control unit.

9. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to Claim 2 1, wherein said first path links said first cache unit to said control unit on a point-to-point basis.

10. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 9, wherein said second path links said second cache unit to said control unit on a point-to-point basis.

11. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said disk device includes a plurality of disk drives, and said control unit is coupled to said plurality of disk drives.

12. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said third and fourth paths are signal lines linking said control unit and said plurality of cache units.

13. (Previously Presented 1) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said third and fourth paths are used to read data, of which reading is requested by said upper-level system, from said disk device, and are used to communicate data, of which reading is requested by said upper-level system, from said control unit to one of said plurality of cache units.

14. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said third and fourth paths are used to write data, of which writing is requested by said upper-level system, from one of said plurality of cache units to said disk device, and are used to communicate data, of which writing is requested by said upper-level system, from one of said plurality of cache units to said control unit.

15. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said third and fourth paths includes a number of paths equal to a number of cache units included in said plurality of cache units.

16. (Currently Amended) A storage system comprising:
a channel unit that transfers data sent from an upper-level system and transfers data to said upper-level system;

a plurality of cache units which are coupled to said channel unit and in which data sent from said channel unit is stored;

a control unit that is coupled to said plurality of cache units, and transfers or receives data to or from said plurality of cache units;

a disk device in which data sent from said control unit is stored;

one or more first path coupling said channel unit to a first cache unit of said plurality of cache units;

one or more second path coupling said channel unit to a second cache unit of said plurality of cache units and not being ~~in common with~~ a same path as said first path;

one or more third path coupling said control unit to said first cache unit;

one or more fourth path coupling said control unit to said second cache unit and not being a same path as said third path.